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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of Formula (IV)

(poer stricture eliminated in brackets)

wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R₁ is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R₂ is hydrogen or an acetyl group.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing a compound of formula I

wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R_1 is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group; and R_2 is hydrogen or an acetyl group, said process comprising

(a) simultaneously protecting the C-7 and C-10 hydroxyl groups of 10-deacetylbaccatin III with trichloroacetyl groups to provide a protected 10-deacetylbaccatin III,

(b) esterifying the C-13 hydroxyl group of the protected 10-deacetylbaccatin III with an oxazolidine 5-carboxylic acid of formula II

wherein R is a tert-butoxycarbonyl, benzoyl, or straight or branched chain alkyl carbonyl group; R_I is a phenyl or a straight or branched alkyl or alkenyl group to provide a protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III having an oxazolidine ring at the C-13 position;

- (c) removing the trichloroacetyl groups from the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III to provide a C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III;
- (d) optionally acetylating the C-10 hydroxyl group of the C-13 esterified 10deacetylbaccatin III to provide a C-13 esterified baccatin III; and
- (e) hydrolyzing the oxazlodine ring of the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III or the C-13 esterified baccatin III in the presence of an acid to provide the compound of formula I.
- 3. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (b) is carried out in the presence of a condensing agent and a base.
- 4. (Original) The process of claim 3, wherein the condensing agent is dicyclohexylcarbodiimide.
- 5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein the base is pyridine.
- 6. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (c) is carried out using NH₄OH/NH₄Cl in an aliphatic solvent.
- (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (d) is carried out by reacting the C-13
 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III with acetic anhydride in the presence of a cerium
 III, scandium, or ytterbium salt.

- 8. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein step (e) is carried out by reacting the protected C-13 esterified 10-deacetylbaccatin III or the C-13 esterified baccatin III with an organic acid or an inorganic acid in an aliphatic alcohol or tetrahydrofuran.
- 9. (Original) The process of claim 8, wherein the acid is formic acid.
- 10. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein R is a benzoyl group, R_1 is a phenyl group, and R_2 is an acetyl group.
- 11. (Original) The process of claim 2, wherein R is tert-butoxycarbonyl group, R_1 is a phenyl group, and R_2 is a hydrogen.
- 12. (Previously-Presented) A compound of Formula (III)